REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 14-26 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10-13, and 27-30 have been amended. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claim and other claims in this application and other applications. New claims 32 and 33 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 6-13 and 27-33 are pending in this application.

Claims 2-13 and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-9, 11-13 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. (US 6,477,512) in view of Yang et al. (US 2004/0043650). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. in view of Yang, and further in view of Flamm et al. (US 5,111,362). Claims 14 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. in view of Yang, and further in view of Liao et al. (US 6,188,572). Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. in view of Liao et al. Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. in view of Liao et al. and further in view of Yang et al. Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. in view of Yang et al. and Liao et al., and further in view of Cheng (US 5,941,618), Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckstrom et al. in view of Liao et al. and further in view of Cheng. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a mailing machine that comprises "a base unit; a cover secured to the base unit; a well formed in the cover, the well including at least one stop device provided on a rim of the well and extending into the well; a rotating portion disposed in the well, the rotating portion including a plurality of tabs around a perimeter of the rotating portion that extend from the rotating portion, the tabs contacting a top surface of the well, the rotating portion being supported in the well by

the tabs, at least one tab contacting the at least one stop device in the well to restrict rotation of the rotating portion within the well; and a docking station secured to the rotating portion, the docking station adapted to secure a user controller and couple the user controller to the mailing machine, the rotating portion being rotatable within the well to reposition the docking station with respect to the cover such that the user controller secured to the docking station can be positioned in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine."

Beckstrom is directed to a postage metering system in which a user interface 120 is detachably mounted to a base 110 by insertion into a pocket 112. The user interface 120 includes a pair of guide posts 150 located on either side of the external base interface connector 138 and each having a corresponding latch pin 152. The guide posts 150 engage corresponding sleeves located within the pocket 112 of the base 110 in conventional fashion so as to align the user interface 120 properly during assembly so that the external base interface connector 138 is brought into proper mating relationship with the base connector 118. The latch assembly 50 includes a knob 52 having a lever 54, a shaft 56 and a pair of latch cams 58 having respective internal cam tracks 59. The shaft 56 is rotatively mounted by any conventional means, such as bearings, to any suitable structure, such as a frame. The knob 52 and the pair of latch cams 58 are fixably mounted to the shaft 56 in any conventional manner. The latch cams 58 correspond to the latch pins 152. The operator or other authorized individual may rotate the knob 52 to a latch position to secure the user interface 120 to the base 110 or to an unlatch position to release the user interface 120. In the unlatch position, the latch pins 152 are out of contact with the corresponding internal cam tracks 59, respectively. However, when the user interface 120 is inserted onto the base 110, the knob 52 may be rotated to the latch position. During this operation, as the knob 52 begins to rotate, the latch pins 152 are captured in the internal cam tracks 59, respectively. As the knob 52 continues to rotate, the shape of the internal cam tracks 59 is designed to pull down on the latch pins 152 and secure the user interface 120 in place. (Col. 5, lines 22-52).

Thus, in Beckstrom the user controller is locked in a fixed orientation and can be positioned in only a single position with respect to the mailing machine. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Beckstrom of a well including at least one stop device provided on a rim of the well and extending into the well as is recited in claim 1. There is also no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Beckstrom of tabs around a perimeter of the rotating portion that extend from the rotating portion and contact a top surface of the well, the rotating portion being supported in the well by the tabs, at least one tab contacting the at least one stop device in the well to restrict rotation of the rotating portion within the well as is recited in claim 1. There is also no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Beckstrom of a docking station secured to the rotating portion, the docking station adapted to secure a user controller and couple the user controller to the mailing machine, the rotating portion being rotatable within the well to reposition the docking station with respect to the cover such that the user controller secured to the docking station can be positioned in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine as is recited in claim 1.

The reference to Yang does not cure all of the above deficiencies. Yang is directed to a docking station for a portable computer. The dock is configured to receive a portable computer. A stand is pivotably attached to the dock. Because the portable computer is pivoably attached to the dock the display can be selectively used in a landscape mode or a portrait mode. The system in Yang, however, does not disclose, teach or suggest a well including at least one stop device provided on a rim of the well and extending into the well as is recited in claim 1. There is also no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Yang of tabs around a perimeter of the rotating portion that extend from the rotating portion and contact a top surface of the well, the rotating portion being supported in the well by the tabs, at least one tab contacting the at least one stop device in the well to restrict rotation of the rotating portion within the well as is recited in claim 1.

Neither Beckstrom nor Yang, either alone or in combination, disclose teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1 as amended. For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

None of the other references relied upon by the Office Action cure any of the above deficiencies with respect to Beckstrom and Yang, as they were relied upon for other features. Claims 3 and 6-13, dependent upon claim 1, are allowable along with claim 1 and on their own merits.

Independent claim 27 is directed to a mailing machine that comprises "a cover; a slot in the cover extending along a portion of the cover; and an interface board adapted to slide within in the slot, the interface board including a docking station for mounting a user controller, wherein the user controller inserted into the docking station can be moved by sliding the interface board within the slot to position the user controller in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine. "

As noted by the Office Action, Beckstrom does not disclose, teach or suggest a slot in the cover extending along a portion of the cover, or that an interface board is adapted to slide within the slot, or that a user controller inserted into the docking station can be moved by sliding the interface board within the slot to position the user controller in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine. To overcome these deficiencies, the Office Action relies on the reference to Liao.

Liao is directed to docking station that has a movable electrical connector for mating with the electrical connector of a portable computer when the portable computer is operably coupled to the docking station. As illustrated in Fig. 1 of Liao, a docking station 101 includes an electrical connector 103 for mating with a corresponding electrical connector 123 located on the backside of portable computer 121 to operably couple portable computer 121 to peripheral devices housed in docking station 101 or operably coupled to docking station 101 via other conventional docking station electrical connectors located on the side or back of housing 102. (Col. 3, lines 30-44). the docking station electrical connector 103 is movable along slot 111 so as to be positioned at various mating positions that correspond to the positions of portable computer electrical connectors of different portable computer types. (Col. 4, lines 11-14).

Thus, in Liao, a connector is movable such that it can correspond to the position of a mating connector of a portable computer when the portable computer is inserted into the docking station. The Office Action contends that it would have been obvious to incorporate the above teachings of Liao in order to accommodate different variations in electrical connector locations as taught by Liao. The present invention, however, is not directed in any manner to accommodating different variations in electrical connector locations, as the location of the electrical connections never varies in the present invention. The present invention is directed to a mailing machine having a user controller that can be moved to a plurality of different positions such that an operator can clearly view the user controller regardless of the operator's position with respect to the mailing machine. As recited in claim 27, a slot is included in the cover of a mailing machine and an interface board is adapted to slide within in the slot. The interface board includes a docking station for mounting a user controller, wherein the user controller inserted into the docking station can be moved by sliding the interface board within the slot to position the user controller in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine. There is nothing in Liao that discloses, teaches or suggests a docking station that can be moved by sliding an interface board within a slot to position the user controller inserted in the docking station in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine. The docking station 101 in Liao is not provided on an interface board that is adapted to slide within a slot on cover. Movement of the electrical connector 103 in Liao will not reposition the docking station in any manner.

The combination of Beckstrom and Liao will not result in the present invention. At most, the combination of Beckstrom and Liao results in a stationary docking station with a movable electrical connector to accommodate different electrical connector locations. This is not the same as the present invention. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Beckstrom or Liao, either alone or in combination, of a mailing machine that comprises "a slot in the cover extending along a portion of the cover; and an interface board adapted to slide within in the slot, the interface board including a docking station for mounting a user controller, wherein the user controller inserted into the docking station can be moved by sliding the interface board within the slot to

position the user controller in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine" as is recited in claim 27.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 is allowable over the prior art of record. None of the other references relied upon by the Office Action cure any of the above deficiencies with respect to Beckstrom and Liao, as they were relied upon for other features. Claims 28-33, dependent upon claim 27, are allowable along with claim 27 and on their own merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 16-1885.

Respectfully submitted,

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